

120 mt
5/10/1
This application is a continuation of U.S. Application No. 07/746,615, filed August 19, 1991, which is a continuation of U.S. Application No. 07/317,422, filed March 1, 1989.

REMARKS

The application has been amended to correct a minor informality so as to place the application, as a whole, into a prima facie condition for allowance. Great care has been taken to avoid the introduction of new subject matter into the application as a result of the foregoing modifications.

The Examiner has rejected Claims 27-29 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatenable over U.S. Patent No. 5,871,766 issued to Hannekens. In light of the foregoing amendment, Applicant further clarifies the lineage of the present application, specifically, that the instant application is a continuation of U.S. Application No. 07/746,615, filed August 19, 1991, which is a continuation of U.S. Application No. 07/317,422, filed March 1, 1989. The earliest filing date cited by U.S. Patent No. 5,871,766 to Hannekens is October 1, 1990 for U.S. Serial No. 592,024. Accordingly, U.S. Patent No. 5,871,766 cannot be relied upon in rejecting Claims 27-29 of the instant application under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

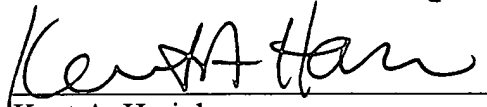
Based on the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 27-29 are in condition for allowance at this time, patentably distinguishing over the prior art. Accordingly, reconsideration of the application and passage to allowance are respectfully solicited.

The Examiner is respectfully urged to call the undersigned attorney at (515) 288-2500 to discuss the claims in an effort to reach a mutual agreement with respect to claim

limitations in the present application which will be effective to define the patentable subject matter if the present claims are not deemed to be adequate for this purpose.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 2/28/01



Kent A. Herink
Registration No. 31,025
DAVIS, BROWN, KOEHN,
SHORS & ROBERTS, P.C.
666 Walnut St., Suite 2500
Des Moines, Iowa 50309
Telephone: (515) 288-2500

ATTORNEYS FOR APPLICANT